

R E M A R K S

Claims 1 through 30 are in the application, with Claims 1, 13, 15, 17 and 19, the independent claims herein, each having been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the drawings fail to show a representation of at least one and less than all substeps preceding a selected substep. This objection is respectfully traversed.

In support of this traversal, Applicant notes that FIG. 10 clearly illustrates a representation of selected substep 2.05 and a representation of substep 2.04. Selected substep 2.05 is preceded by substeps 2.01, 2.02, 2.03 and 2.04. Accordingly, FIG. 10 shows a representation of at least one and less than all substeps preceding a selected substep. Applicant further notes that each of FIGS. 17a, 18a, 19 through 21, 26, 27a, 28a, 29 through 32, 33a, 34, 35, 36, 41, 42, 43a, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 55a, 56 and 57a also illustrate a representation of at least one and less than all substeps preceding a selected substep. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 13, 15, and 19 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential elements. This rejection, which is described in M.P.E.P. §2172.01 as a §112, first paragraph rejection, fails to identify any material that is omitted from the claims and that Applicant described as being essential to the invention. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be incomplete.

Instead, the rejection illustrates situations in which the described embodiments do not include the claimed "third area". These situations are not believed to be relevant to a rejection under §112, because the claim language is not required to be consistent with every aspect of each described embodiment. §112 simply requires that the claims are definite and supported by the specification. In particular, the first paragraph of §112 requires a written description of the

claimed invention, a description of the best mode for practicing claimed invention, and enablement of the claimed invention, while the second paragraph of §112 requires that the claims are definite. Since the claimed “third area” is adequately described and illustrated throughout the present application, each of these requirements is believed to be satisfied in the present case. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-24, 26, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,671,694 (“Marpe”); and Claims 7, 9, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marpe and U.S. Patent No. 6,456,303 (“Walden”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 19

Amended independent Claim 1 concerns a user interface for managing a project. The user interface includes a first area comprising representations of each of a plurality of steps, a second area comprising representations of a plurality of substeps corresponding to one of the plurality of steps, and a third area displayed in response to a selection of one of the plurality of substeps. The third area simultaneously displays a representation of the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Embodiments of the foregoing features may provide efficient management of a project. Such efficiency may result in part from the simultaneously display of instructions for performing a selected substep and relationships between the selected substep and substeps that precede and follow the selected substep.

Marpe is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 1. More specifically, Marpe is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least a third area displayed in response to a selection of one of a plurality of substeps, the third area to simultaneously display a representation of a selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less

than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Rather, Marpe is seen to describe a system including a Navigation Chevron 200 having discrete phase chevrons 202. Upon selection of a phase chevron 202, a knowledge database topic page 300 related to the selected phase chevron 202 is displayed along with the Navigation Chevron 200, as shown in FIG. 3. FIGS. 4 and 18 illustrate implementations in which each phase chevron 202 is associated with sub-headings. According to such implementations, a phase chevron 202 is selected and sub-headings are displayed in response. FIGS. 3 and 19 illustrate Display screens that may be presented upon selection of one of the displayed sub-headings.

Marpe therefore displays either sub-headings of a selected phase chevron or information related to a selected sub-heading. In contrast, the language of Claim 1 specifies a third area of a user interface that simultaneously displays a representation of a selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Amended independent Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Amended independent Claim 19 concerns a medium storing processor-executable code to provide a user interface as claimed in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 19 is also believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 13, 15 and 17

Amended independent Claim 13 relates to a computer-readable medium storing processor-executable process steps to provide a user interface for managing a project. The process steps include a step to display a first area comprising representations of each of a plurality of steps, a step to display a second area comprising representations of a plurality of substeps corresponding to one of the plurality of steps, a step to receive a selection of one of the plurality of substeps, and a step to display a third area in response to the selection. The third area simultaneously displays a representation of the selected one of the plurality of substeps, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Marpe is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least a third area displayed in response to a selection of one of a plurality of substeps, the third area to simultaneously display a representation of the selected one of the plurality of substeps, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Marpe is seen only to describe a system to simultaneously display several phase chevrons 202 along with several sub-headings related to a selected phase chevron 202 (e.g., FIGS. 4 and 18), or several phase chevrons 202 along with information relating to a selected phase chevron or sub-heading (e.g., FIGS. 3 and 19). Marpe cannot be seen to describe the simultaneously display of a representation of a selected one of a plurality of substeps, representations of at least one and less than all of substeps preceding the selected substep, representations of at least one and less than all of the substeps following the selected substep, and instructions for performing the selected substep.

Amended independent Claim 13 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Amended independent Claims 15 and 17 respectively relate to a method and an apparatus roughly corresponding to Claim 13. Amended independent Claims 15 and 17 are therefore also believed to be allowable.

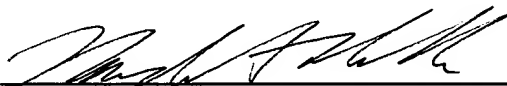
CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding each of the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed herein because they are not related to the rejections of the independent claims. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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